

REMARKS

Claims 11-13 are canceled, claims 8 and 14-17 have been allowed; as a result, claims 8 and 14-17 are now pending in this application.

Applicant is unclear regarding the status of claim 14. Paragraph 6 of the Office Action states claim 14 is allowed. Conversely, paragraph 1 of the Office Action states the allowability of claim 14 is withdrawn. Applicant respectfully requests clarification as to the status of claim 14 and reserves the right to traverse any rejection thereof.

According to the Office Action, paragraph 6, Claims 8 and 14-17 are allowed, and the remaining claims have been canceled, rendering the rejections moot. Allowance of the currently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowability of claims 8 and 14-17.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 373-6902) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

12/29/2003

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 29 day of December, 2003. (Monday after Federal holidays)

Candis B. Buending
Name

Candis Buending
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